



Summary of the Federal Regulations on Single-Gender Schools and Classes

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Final federal regulations were announced October 25, 2006 and took effect on November 24, 2006. This summary is meant as a guide to the Federal Guidelines. You should consult your own school district attorney to confirm legal status of your school's program.

1. You must have a rationale that addresses an important educational objective.

An educational objective can include academic performance, attendance, and discipline referrals. The rationale would guide the creation of the program including the grade level where it will be offered, the subject areas where it will be offered, and the gender to which it will be offered. If you offer single-gender classes to just one gender, then your rationale **MUST** reflect this and that you are able to meet the educational needs of the other gender through coeducational means.

2. The program is implemented in an “evenhanded manner”.

Treat males and females in a similar manner in terms of expectations, policies, and procedures, including: grading procedures and disciplinary codes.

3. Enrollment is “completely voluntary”.

Parents must have a choice about being a part of a single-gender program. Parents can Opt-In to a program, this is clearly the most legal. Students can also be assigned to a program and parents given the option to Opt-Out, this is very common and successful. In this case, you must make sure that you take all reasonable steps to inform parents of their right to Opt-Out.

4. A “substantially equal coeducational class” is offered to students not enrolled in the single-gender classes.

“Substantially equal” includes but is not limited to similar: admissions criteria, quality of curriculum, availability of texts, technology, resources, qualification of faculty, and geographic accessibility.

5. If you offer single-gender classes for just one gender, then you “may” have to provide a single-sex class for students of the excluded sex.

This follows from your rationale.

6. Conduct periodic evaluations of the rationale every two years.

You must gather data to determine if your program is meeting the needs as stated in the rationale **AND** that the program is not based on overly broad stereotypes. At this time, a report does **NOT** have to be submitted to the federal or state government.